GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4649
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2003
LOSSES OF HOOGHLY DOCK AND PORT ENGINEERS LIMITED
AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, Kolkata, has been suffering losses for the last several years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make it economically viable ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Company has suffered a loss of Rs.20.00 crores during 1999-2000, Rs.31.15 crores during 2000-01 and Rs.20.47 crores during 2001-02. The reasons for losses are excessive manpower, huge interest burden on Government and other loans, low productivity, lack of orders, dilapidated machinery, etc.

(c) As part of policy support measures to help the unit to become economically viable Government has issued guidelines to Port authorities and Shipping Companies, such as, Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), Dredging Corporation of India (DCI), Centra Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC), Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Directorate General of Lighthouses an Lightships (DGLL), etc. to consider placing orders on public sector shipyards which include HDPEL, on nomination / non-tender basis while procuring ships, dredgers, tugs, but without compromising commercial considerations. With intervention of this Ministry, the Project of 400 Passenger Vessel, work on which had come to a standstill in July, 2000, has been revived at a cost of Rs.76.37 crores. In addition, orders for 4 Nos. of Pontoons at a cost of Rs.4.00 crores has been awarded by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers Limited (HDPEL).